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Dockets Management Branch  
Food and Drug Administration, HHS  
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

August 17, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in reference to docket number 98P-0203/CP concerning the issue of forced molting. I urge you to seriously consider banning this practice for several reasons. First, it is unnatural and inhumane to treat hens in such a manner, subjecting them to weeks of complete darkness without food and water. Second, this practice actually encourages the growth of salmonella enteritidis (Se). A recent study by the USDA Se Poultry Research lab showed that in the weakened state caused by these conditions, a hen is much more susceptible to the bacteria, and thus, much more likely to pass it on to the eggs she lays. This means an increased risk of salmonella poisoning for the consumer. Based on these two reasons, though there are others, I ask you not only to consider but also to support a ban on forced molting.

Thank you for your time and effort. I look forward to your response.

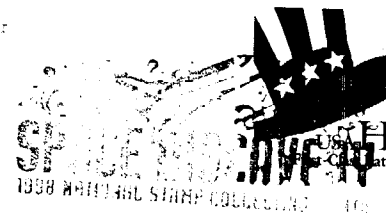
Sincerely,

*Christina Morin*  
Christina Morin

98P-0203

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